



COUNCIL MINUTES

December 8, 2009

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint meeting with the Town Council of the Town of Gilbert at Arizona State University Polytechnic, Cooley Ballroom, on December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

CITY OF MESA COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Scott Smith
Dina Higgins
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

Alex Finter
Kyle Jones

CITY OF MESA STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker
Jack Friedline
Dan Cleavenger
Mike James
Beth Huning
Scott Butler
Scott Rigby
Kelly Jensen
Craig Crocker
Kevin Christopher
Kathy MacDonald
Miranda Culver

TOWN OF GILBERT COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor John Lewis
Linda Abbott
Dave Crozier
Jenn Daniels
Les Presmyk
John Sentz
Steve Urie

TOWN OF GILBERT STAFF PRESENT

George Pettit
Marc Skocypec
Tami Ryall
Cathy Templeton
Susan Goodwin
Michelle Gramley
Kyle Mieras
Beth Lucas

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order but for purposes of clarity will be shown as originally listed.)

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mayor Smith welcomed Town of Gilbert Mayor John Lewis, the members of the Gilbert Town Council and staff to the joint meeting. He requested that those present introduce themselves.

2. Discuss Power Road Improvement Projects

Assistant Gilbert Town Manager Tami Ryall explained that the Power Road Improvement Project is a partnership between Mesa, Gilbert and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation. She provided brief history on the Power Road Corridor that included completion of a Corridor Study of Power Road. Ms. Ryall reviewed the four phases of the Power Road improvement project and advised that portions of the project also include funds

from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Proposition 400. **(See Attachment 1.)**

Deputy Transportation Director Mike James reviewed the project's costs and estimated traffic counts.

Mesa City Engineer Beth Huning addressed the attendees relative to this agenda item and discussed the Power Road and Williams Field Road intersection. She advised that ten alternatives were reviewed and the preferred alternative is a dual corridor with a north and south traffic split. She noted that design and construction of the project is planned to take place between January 2010 and February 2012.

Gilbert Town Manager George Pettit shared an award that recognized the partnership that existed for the Power and Pecos Road project.

Discussion ensued relative to the various alternatives and impact on private property, including an apartment complex that could be impacted depending upon the chosen alternative.

Mesa Town Manager Christopher Brady advised that staff is anxious to move forward on the design and added that Mesa is ready to move forward and supports both alternatives that were discussed.

Mayor Smith commented that the chosen alternative will have the most impact on Gilbert and said that Mesa is waiting for the Town of Gilbert to determine its preference.

3. Hear a presentation and discuss current status and future development plans for ASU Polytechnic.

Virgil Renzulli, Vice President of Public Affairs for Arizona State University (ASU), addressed the group and provided a brief update on the ASU campus. He stressed the importance of having a first class research university and added that part of his goal was to increase enrollment. He also discussed President Michael Crow's goals and objectives to ensure that the University surpasses expectations and announced that Time Magazine has named President Crow one of the top university Presidents in the United States. He stated that the Polytechnic College of Technology and Engineering can compete with any Polytechnic facility nationally.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that ASU has experienced \$100 million in budget cuts and, as a result, has streamlined and consolidated administration; the fact that each campus has been differentiated and defined for maximum benefit (and they all remain full and equal); the fact that minimal class disruption has occurred despite the budget cuts and resulting actions; the fact that ASU's student population has tripled over the last ten years; recruiting efforts and the addition of various academic programs, the fact that the University received \$75 million in stimulus monies and Nobel awards; the fact that the University currently has 18 Bachelor/Master degree programs with five new degrees planned for next year and four the following year; the fact that ASU Polytechnic added 250,000 square feet of education space 18

months ago; future improvements, including residence halls; the importance of getting much needed nursing staff into hospitals; the partnership that exists between ASU and the University of Arizona to bring a medical school to the Valley; current research projects including the award winning ASU Algae Research project that is housed at ASU Polytechnic; the fact that the ASU model impacts both Mesa and Gilbert; grant funding, and the fact that there is now one University housed at four different locations.

Mr. Renzulli advised that President Crow will speaking at the upcoming East Valley Partnership event. He thanked the City of Mesa and Town of Gilbert for their ongoing support and for allowing him an opportunity to present his remarks.

Mayor Lewis asked what assistance Mesa and Gilbert could provide and Mr. Renzulli replied that during the current recession they are losing high tech jobs. He stressed the importance of aggressively seeking those types of employment opportunities.

Mayor Smith commented that Mesa does have concerns about how the model affects the City (the ability to bring in donors and branch campuses versus a main campus).

Mr. Renzulli replied that they have one University headquartered in four places. He added that when President Crow speaks at the East Valley Partnership breakfast in January, there will be an opportunity to pose questions and discuss various issues.

Mayor Smith emphasized the importance of having Polytechnic be the “driver” and Mr. Renzulli said that the health of the institution is vital and noted that the University has taken the highest per capita cuts than any other university in the nation.

Mayor Smith expressed appreciation to Mr. Renzulli for his presentation.

4. Discuss City support of educational institutions, including but not limited to community colleges and private institutions.

Mayor Smith’s Chief of Staff, Kathy MacDonald discussed the Power Road Knowledge Corridor and displayed a map that depicted the educational institutions located within the Corridor. **(See Attachment 2.)** She advised that the objectives of the Corridor are to create a “brand,” connect with educational leaders, build stronger relationships and expand education options. She noted that the Corridor has the potential to become known internationally for the collaboration between education, business and government.

Discussion ensued relative to the Research Triangle in North Carolina and the fact that the Power Road Knowledge Corridor is focused on education rather than research; the fact that Mesa would like to begin getting the educational institutions to start looking at the concept and talking about it; next steps that include establishing a “brand” and beginning stakeholder meetings and a suggestion that the slogan for the Corridor could be “Gateway to the Future.”

Mayor Smith thanked Ms. MacDonald for her presentation.

5. Hear a presentation on the Town of Gilbert General Plan Update.

Planning and Development Services Manager Kyle Mieras presented the General Plan 2011 Voter Adoption process and said that work began during the Summer/Fall of 2008. **(See Attachment 3.)** He noted that the update is a citizen-driven open process. He explained that a Steering Committee and four Subcommittees were established and are currently working on draft updates to the 12 chapters of the General Plan. He said that he has reviewed the Vision that was approved by the Council in August 2009 and the chapters will then be reviewed by the Steering Committee and the legal department and will be posted to the website for comments. He concluded his presentation by reviewing actions that will occur between now and when the General Plan goes before the voters on November 9, 2011.

6. Hear a presentation and discuss ongoing activities at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Executive Director of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Lynn Kusy, addressed the group and provided an update on the Airport. He shared information on the success of Allegiant Air and the number of flights and passengers to date. He reviewed illustrations showing the planned expansion of the passenger terminal. Mr. Kusy discussed the need to work together on joint transportation projects, including the Power Road/Williams Field Corridor, which is viewed as the center of the East Valley. Brief discussion ensued relative to the accomplishments and future goals of the Airport as well as opportunities that exist.

7. Discuss opportunities for regional cooperation in areas including but not limited to Public Safety and Transportation.

Mr. Pettit briefly commented on partnerships that exist/have existed between Mesa and the Town of Gilbert. He emphasized the importance of continuing to work on transit issues and noted the importance of working to extend transit lines to Mesa and Gilbert – light rail and commuter rail opportunities. He said that the Citizens' Budget Committee recommended that a Regional Dispatch Center be established to handle emergency calls and discussed the possible use of the closed Maricopa County facility as a holding facility for prisoners. He stated that these are some examples of partnerships to explore in the future.

8. Adjournment.

Mayor Lewis invited the Mesa City Council to join the Gilbert Historical Society and thanked Mayor Smith for the leadership and assistance he provided to him as a new Mayor.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for their participation and encouraged everyone to continue to work together as the lines between Mesa and Gilbert are "blended."

Without objection, the Joint Meeting of the City of Mesa City Council with the Town of Gilbert Town Council adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Town of Gilbert Council held on the 8TH day of December, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2009

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

Attachments: 3

lgc